

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A measurement method for detecting mass based on a change in vibration frequency of a piezoelectric vibration reed for mass measurement, the measurement method comprising:

~~a step of~~ supplying an excitation signal from an excitation circuit including a voltage controlled oscillator to excite the piezoelectric vibration reed ~~and;~~

_____ calculating a phase difference between an output signal of the piezoelectric vibration reed and the excitation signal; ~~and~~

~~a step of~~ adjusting the frequency of the excitation signal to have a frequency corresponding to the output signal of the piezoelectric vibration reed in response to the calculated phase difference; and

_____ calculating the vibration frequency of the piezoelectric vibration reed.

2. (Currently Amended) A circuit for exciting a piezoelectric vibration reed for mass measurement, comprising:

a voltage controlled oscillator for supplying an excitation signal to the piezoelectric vibration reed for mass measurement;

a phase detection unit for calculating a phase difference between the excitation signal from the voltage controlled oscillator and an output signal from the piezoelectric vibration reed; and

a control voltage output unit for supplying a voltage corresponding to the phase difference calculated by the phase detection unit to the voltage controlled oscillator,

wherein and allowing the voltage controlled oscillator adjusts the excitation signal ~~having the same to have a frequency corresponding to as the frequency of the output signal of the piezoelectric vibration reed to be outputted to the voltage controlled oscillator.~~

3. (Withdrawn) A circuit for exciting a piezoelectric vibration reed for mass measurement according to Claim 2, wherein the piezoelectric vibration reed is connected to a coil in one of parallel and series.

4. (Withdrawn) A circuit for exciting a piezoelectric vibration reed for mass measurement according to Claim 2, wherein a phase shifter for controlling a phase delay or advance of the excitation signal is provided between the voltage controlled oscillator and the phase detection unit.

5. (Withdrawn) A circuit for exciting a piezoelectric vibration reed for mass measurement according to Claim 2, wherein a multiplier is provided at an output side of the voltage controlled oscillator, and the excitation signal is supplied to the piezoelectric vibration reed and the phase detection unit through the multiplier.

6. (Withdrawn) A circuit for exciting a piezoelectric vibration reed for mass measurement according to Claim 5, wherein dividers are provided between the piezoelectric vibration reed and the phase detection unit and between the multiplier and the phase detection unit.

7. (Withdrawn) A circuit for exciting a piezoelectric vibration reed for mass measurement according to Claim 2, wherein the phase detection unit and the control voltage output unit are made with digital circuits.

8. (Withdrawn) A circuit for exciting a piezoelectric vibration reed for mass measurement according to Claim 7, wherein a charge pump is provided between the phase detection unit and the control voltage output unit.

9. (Withdrawn) A circuit for exciting a piezoelectric vibration reed for mass measurement according to Claim 7, wherein the control voltage output unit has a digital signal processor.

10. (Withdrawn) A circuit for exciting a piezoelectric vibration reed for mass measurement according to Claim 2, wherein a plurality of the piezoelectric vibration reeds are provided, a switch unit is provided between the piezoelectric vibration reeds and the voltage controlled oscillator to supply the excitation signal by sequentially switching the piezoelectric vibration reeds.

11-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Withdrawn) A circuit for exciting a piezoelectric vibration reed for mass measurement according to Claim 2, wherein a variable gain amplifier is provided between the voltage controlled oscillator and the piezoelectric vibration reed and uniformly controls an input voltage to a phase comparator.

14. (Previously Presented) A mass measurement apparatus including a circuit for exciting a piezoelectric vibration reed for mass measurement according to Claim 2.

15. (Withdrawn) A circuit for exciting a piezoelectric vibration reed for mass measurement according to Claim 2, wherein a plurality of the piezoelectric vibration reeds are provided, and switch units are provided between the piezoelectric vibration reeds and the voltage controlled oscillator and between the piezoelectric vibration reeds and the phase detection unit.